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(71) Applicant: **UNITED TECHNOLOGIES
CORPORATION**
Hartford, CT 06101 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Raulerson, David A.**
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410 (US)
• **Amos, Jay**
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455 (US)
• **Smith, Kevin D.**
Jupiter, Florida 33478 (US)

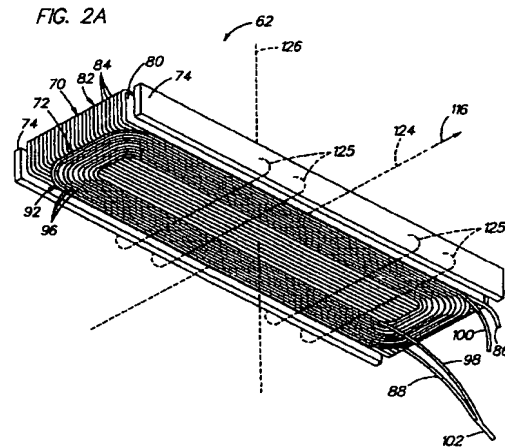
(74) Representative: **Leckey, David Herbert**
Frank B. Dehn & Co.,
European Patent Attorneys,
179 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4EL (GB)

(54) Method and apparatus for non destructive inspection

(57) An eddy current probe (62) for use in inspecting an object, includes a driver (70) having a coil (82) with an effective coil axis (124), and further includes a receiver (72) having a coil (92) with a coil axis (126) oriented substantially perpendicular to the driver coil effective coil axis, the receiver having a length (134), and a width (130), the length being the dimension in the direction parallel to the scanning path (116), and the width having a dimension magnitude substantially greater than that of the length. A method for inspecting an object uses such an eddy current probe.

An eddy current probe for use in inspecting an object, includes a driver (70) having a coil (82) with an effective coil axis (124), the driver having a length (132) and a width (128), the length being the dimension in a direction substantially parallel to a scanning path (116), and further includes a receiver (72) having a coil (92) with a coil axis (126) oriented substantially perpendicular to the driver coil effective coil axis, where the magnitude of a distance between the receiver and at least one of the driver edges (140,144) is less than 0.125 times the width of the driver. A method for inspecting an object uses such an eddy current probe.

FIG. 2A



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 31 0391

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.8)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 23 March 2001	Examiner Johnson, K
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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